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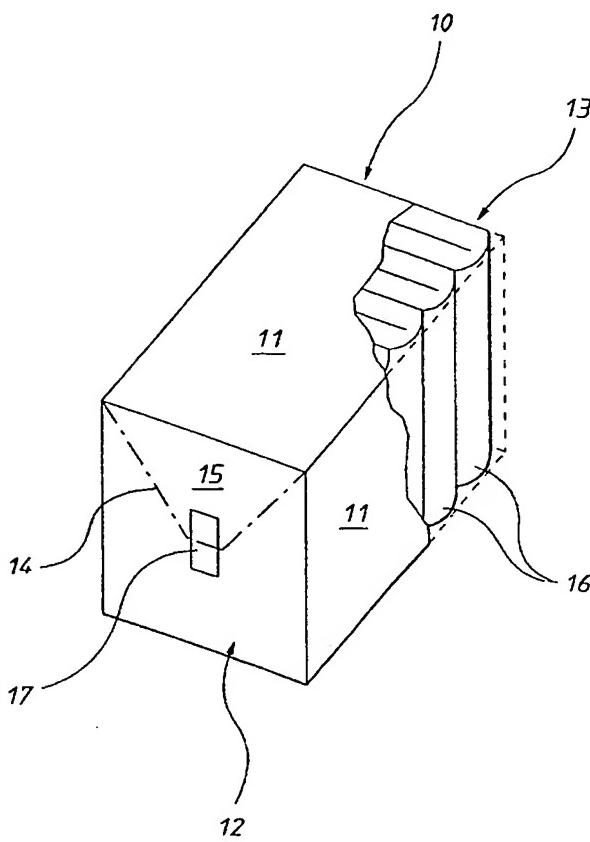
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(54) Title: PACKAGE FOR PANTILINERS



(57) Abstract: Disclosed in the specification is a package member (10) formed of sheet plastics material and containing a plurality of feminine hygiene products (16) such as pads or "panty" liners. The package member (10) has an end wall (12) provided with a reclosable flap (13) by use of a securing tab (17).



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## PACKAGE FOR PANTILINERS

### Technical Field

The present invention relates to packaging and more particularly but not exclusively  
5 to the packaging of feminine hygiene products such as pads and "panty" liners.

### Background of the Invention

It is extremely common for women to carry in a bag or briefcase their personal  
hygiene products such as pads and "panty" liners. Typically the bag will contain other  
objects such as coins, writing implements and makeup containers, many of which have  
10 sharp edges. Although the feminine hygiene products are wrapped in a plastics sheet  
material, movement of the bag and therefore engagement of the personal hygiene  
products with other items in the bag, damages the plastic material within which the  
product is wrapped. Ideally, the product should then be discarded as its hygienic  
condition has been compromised.

15 The above problem results in the unnecessary disposal of feminine hygiene  
products.

### Object of the Invention

It is the object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate the  
above disadvantage.

### 20 Summary of the Invention

There is disclosed herein in combination, a package member enclosing a plurality of  
feminine hygiene products, said products being arranged in a stacked configuration within  
the packaging member, said packaging member having a reclosable flap that when  
displaced provides access to said products enabling their removal from within the  
25 packaging member, and wherein packaging member is formed of flexible sheet material  
to aid in protecting the products contained within the packaging member.

Preferably in the above combination the sheet material is flexible. More preferably  
the sheet material is plastics.

In a further preferred form the sheet material is cardboard.

30 Preferably in the above combination, the feminine hygiene products are pads or  
"panty" liners.

Preferably said packaging member is square or rectangular in configuration so as to  
have an end wall, with said end wall being perforated to provide said reclosable flap.

Preferably in the above combination, the packaging member includes a releasable securing tab to retain the flap in a closed position.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

5 A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective view of a package member containing feminine hygiene products, a portion of the package is removed so that the products contained therein are visible;

10 Figure 2 is a schematic perspective view of a package member containing feminine hygiene products, a portion of the package member is removed so that the products contained therein are visible;

Figure 3 is a schematic side perspective view of the package member of Figure 2; and

15 Figure 4 is a schematic bottom perspective view of the package member of Figure 2.

#### Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In Figure 1 the accompanying drawing there is schematically depicted a package member 10 to contain a plurality of feminine hygiene care products 16 which may be 20 pads or "panty" liners. Each of the products 16 if so required may be individually wrapped. The products 16 are arranged in a stack and may vary in number. The products 16 may be folded.

The packaging member 10 can be of a square or rectangular configuration, however in this embodiment the package member 10 is of a rectangular configuration so as to have 25 four longitudinal sides 11 and two end walls 12 and 13. In this embodiment the end wall 12 is perforated so as to have a line of perforations 14 defining a reclosable flap 15. In this respect it should be appreciated that the flap 15 could be located on one of the side walls 11 or alternatively the other end wall 13.

Secured to the flap 15 is a securing tab 17 which may be a strip of plastics material 30 to which a releasable adhesive is applied.

The package member 10 is formed of sheet plastics material so as to be generally flexible but still provide a degree of protection for the product 16 contained therein.

To withdraw one of the products 16, initially a user would engage the line of 35 perforations 14 to cause rupturing of the end wall 12 so that the flap 15 can be separated from the remainder of the end wall 12. Thereafter a user has access to the interior of the

package member 10 so as to be able to withdraw one of the products 16. Thereafter the package member 10 may be reclosed by means of the tab 17 being placed into engagement with the remainder of the end wall 12 when the flap 15 is moved to the closed configuration as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

Typically the products 16 would be arranged in a stack of four to ten folded pads or "panty" liners.

The package member 10 would be formed of flexible sheet plastics material and may be printed to contain information or alternatively may be clear.

In Figures 2 to 4 of the accompanying drawings there is schematically depicted a package member 20. The package member 20 contains a plurality of feminine hygiene care products 16 which may be pads or "panty liners". Each of the products 16 if so required may be individually wrapped. The products 16 are arranged in a stack and may vary in number. The product 16 may be folded.

The package member 20 is formed of cardboard and has an end closure flap 21 including panels 22 and 23. The end closure flap 21 is moveable between an open position providing access to the product 16, and a closed position protecting the products 16. In the closed position the panel 23 is located adjacent the side wall 24 so that the closure flap 21 is retained in a closed position.

The bottom of the package member 20 is provided with panels 25 which overlap and are secured together so as to be retained in a closed configuration.

The above described preferred embodiments provide a number of advantages including convenience, portability, compactness as well as being discreet. More importantly the package members 10 and 20 aid in retaining the products 16 in a hygienic condition for use.

## CLAIMS:

1. In combination, a package member enclosing a plurality of feminine hygiene products, said products being arranged in a stacked configuration within the package member, said package member having a reclosable flap that when displaced provides access to said products enabling their removal from within the package member, and wherein the package member is formed of sheet material to aid in protecting the products contained within the package member.
2. The combination of claim 1, wherein the feminine hygiene products are pads or "panty" liners.
3. The combination of claim 2, wherein the package member is of square or rectangular configuration when containing the products so as to have an end wall, with said end wall being perforated to provide said reclosable flap.
4. The combination of claim 3, wherein said package member includes a releasable securing tab attached to said flap to engage the end wall providing said reclosable flap to aid in retaining the flap in a closed position.
5. The combination of any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the sheet material is plastics.
6. The combination of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the sheet material is cardboard, and the package member is formed with an enclosure flap moveable between an open position providing access to the products, and a closed position protecting the products.

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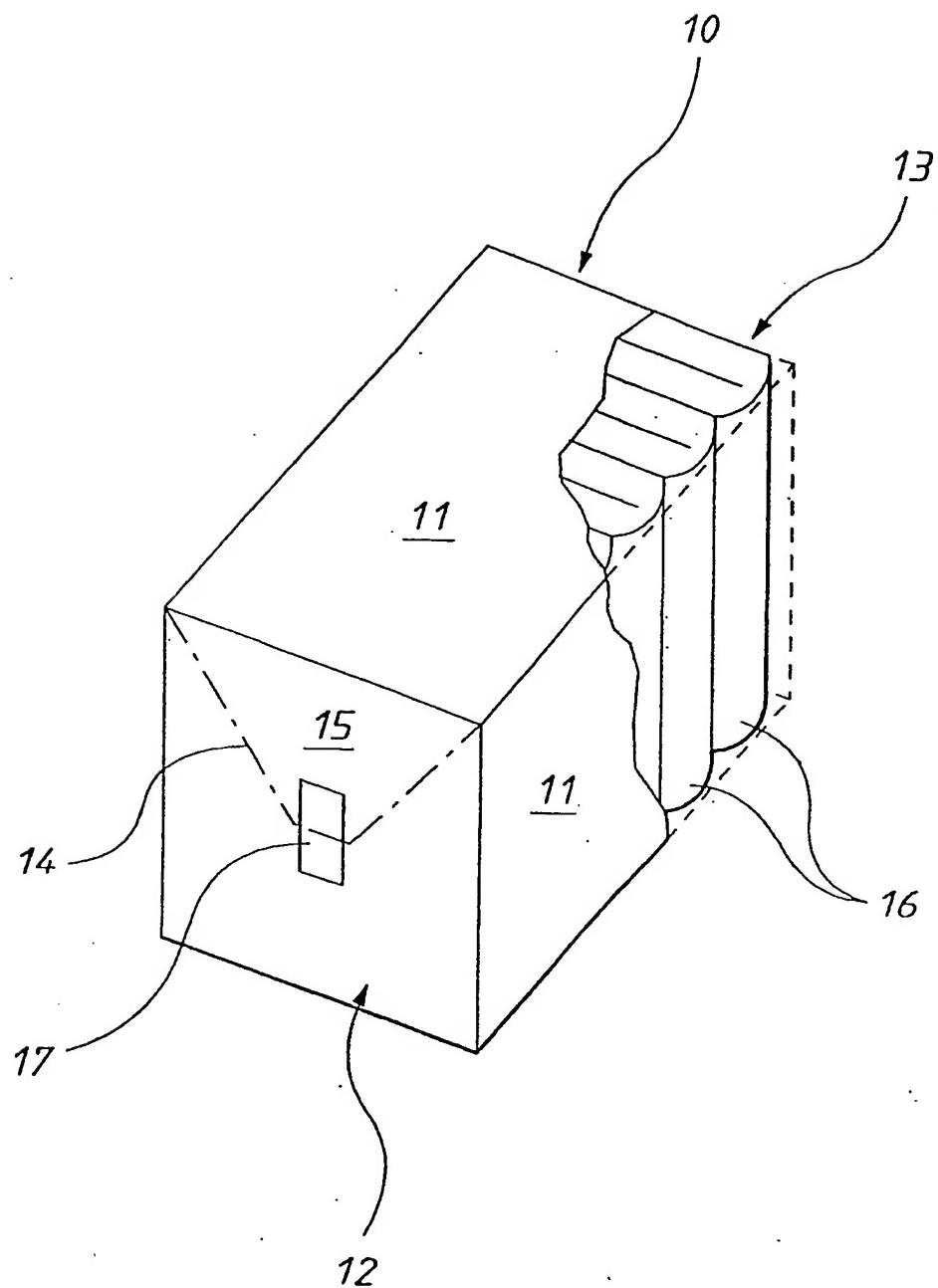


FIG. 1

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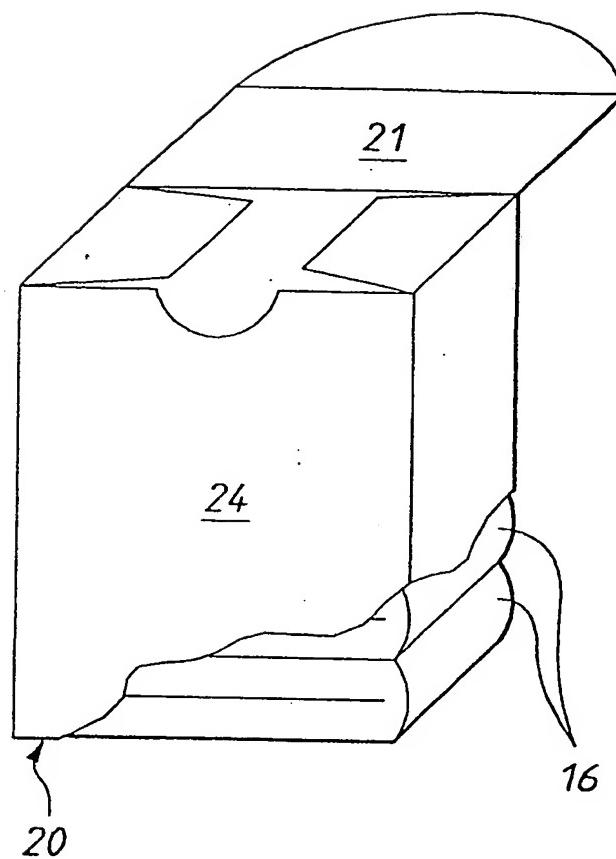


FIG.2

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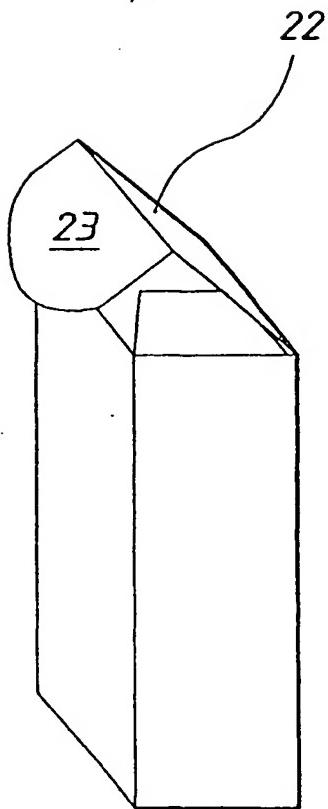


FIG.3

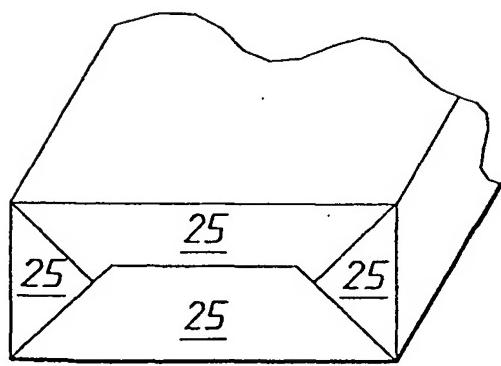


FIG.4

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/AU 00/01360
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**Int Cl<sup>7</sup>: B65D 5/10, 17/32, 77/02, A61F 13/15

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
WPAT: (reclost or reseal) and flapt and (box + or carton+ or contain+ or pack+) and (hygien+ or personal+ or feminine or panty or pads)**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98/18682 A (PROCTOR & GAMBLE COMPANY) 7 May 1998 see whole document	1-6
X	EP 419770 A (CHRISTIAN SENNING) 3 April 1991 see whole document	1-6
X	US 5996797 A (CHESEBROUGH PONDS USA CO.) 7 December 1999 see whole document	1-6

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

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 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
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## **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

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PCT/AU 00/01360

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	98/18682 A	AU	50055/97				
EP	419770 A	CA	2025856	JP	3148479		
US	5996797	US	6014273	DAU	54162/99	DUS	5996797
		DWO	200012407	DE	19827256	GB	9813125
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